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Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of fourteen members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 10 May 2007 from the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly and, with reference to the forthcoming elections of the members of the United Nations Human Rights Council scheduled for 17 May 2007 in New York, has the honour to inform the President that the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina has decided to present its candidature for election to the Human Rights Council for the period 2007-2010.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations has the pleasure and privilege to attach herewith a copy of the pledges and commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 10 May 2007 from the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Aide-mémoire

Candidature of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Humans Rights Council for the term 2007-2010

Voluntary pledges and commitments in accordance with resolution 60/251

The genuine commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the promotion and protection of human rights is deeply rooted in its distinctive nature as a truly diverse multi-ethnic and multicultural society. Bosnia and Herzegovina truly believes that the development and well-being of its citizens can only be achieved through a culture of dedicated protection and promotion of human rights.

The Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina is founded on respect for human dignity and dedication to justice and tolerance. The Constitution explicitly details that the rights and freedoms set forth in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Protocols shall directly apply in Bosnia and Herzegovina and shall furthermore have priority over all other law.

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms provided for in the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina are secured to all persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

There are various specialized bodies with the role of further promotion and advancement of human rights within the governmental sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Council of Children, the Gender Equality Agency, the Council of Roma Minority, the Council for Disabled Persons and the Commission for Relations with Religious Communities.

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted the Action Plan for the Suppression of Human Trafficking and has concluded an agreement of cooperation with non-governmental organizations for the protection of victims of human trafficking. A national strategy has been adopted for the protection of Roma, the most vulnerable and numerous ethnic minority in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Action Plan for the Equality of Gender has also been adopted. The Action Plan for Children 2002-2010 is being implemented and supervised by the Council of Ministers.

The foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which emphasizes the strengthening of democracy and promotion of human rights, is based on assumption that the protection of human rights of every individual and the rule of law in general offer the best basis for global peace and security.

As a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Bosnia and Herzegovina has accepted the principles of the Final Helsinki document and fully cooperates with OSCE in the field of the promotion and protection of human rights. Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified numerous

international human rights conventions and treaties and regularly reports to and cooperates with the relevant United Nations bodies.

With its strong commitment to universal promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, Bosnia and Herzegovina, a democratic, multi-ethnic, multicultural and multireligious society, whose presence in the Human Rights Council would bring a perspective of moderation and pluralism, voluntarily pledges the following:

- To genuinely engage in constructive efforts to ensure credible and effective performance and permanently pursue a climate of confidence and dialogue in all activities of the Council;
- To contribute to ensuring that all decisions by the Human Rights Council are made in a consensual and constructive manner;
- To ensure that the Council functions as an effective framework to counter all human rights violations and crises;
- To cooperate fully and in a timely manner with all specialized bodies promoting and protecting human rights;
- To encourage States to comply to their reporting obligations and recommendations by human rights specialized bodies;
- To abide by national and international mechanisms and procedures to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all citizens;
- To encourage efforts by civil society and non-governmental organizations seeking to protect and promote human rights;
- To encourage efforts by governmental and non-governmental organizations promoting gender equality;
- To engage constructively in future reforms and advancements of the human rights bodies.

Owing to its extensive experience in the field of return of refugees and displaced persons, Bosnia and Herzegovina pledges:

- To assist and alleviate suffering of all war affected populations by providing expertise in the field of the return of refugees;
- To advocate the full implementation of the Convention against Torture and the abolition of the death penalty;
- To promote all resolutions and measures against intolerance, racism and all forms of discrimination.